



Zero Waste Arlington April 2021 Meeting Minutes

Date: April 29, 2021

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: *Online Zoom Meeting*

Attendees:

Committee Members - Charlotte Milan, Paul Goldberg, Larry Slotnick, Scott Mullen, Priya Sankalia, Meghan Correa, Jim Ballin, Emily Dertz.

Residents - Kathryn Howlett, Gina S.

Minutes

Opened with the *Land Acknowledgement* statement

“We acknowledge that the Town of Arlington is located on the ancestral lands of the Massachusetts Tribe, the tribe of Indigenous peoples from whom the Colony, Province, and Commonwealth have taken their names. We pay our respects to the ancestral bloodline of the Massachusetts Tribe and their descendants who still inhabit historic Massachusetts territories today.”

1. Old Business

- a. Reviewed and approved March 2021 ZWA meeting minutes

2. New Business

a. Leadership

- i. Larry discussed the co-chair role and sub-committees. Paul, Priya and Scott commented on how the committee has evolved and is well-run.
- ii. Larry will be looking to identify a co-chair since Allison will be stepping down. The Committee typically nominates at the May meeting and votes for co-chairs at the June meeting. (Nobody raised their hand to step into a co-chair role.)

b. *Earth to Arlington* webinar series

- i. Not worked on since the last meeting. Priya will discuss with Larry, Sarah, Scott (and Emily who is interested in joining,) and set a date for a planning meeting for next webinar
- ii. Quick discussion of roadmap and date for webinar which will be in June (early)

- iii. Scott talked about how we should push the recorded Recycling IQ material out (social media plan - e.g. ACMI). Discuss with Sarah during our subcommittee meeting.
 - iv. Kathryn asked if the content is appropriate for the MA Recycle Smart program - so we could share out with a larger audience. Is it relevant to not just Arlington - Charlotte can send it out to the recycling community who might be looking for ideas.
 - v. Webinar #1 focused on the Recycling IQ program, which was specific. Recycling IQ continues to be a competitive grant, so other communities could advocate for it after viewing the webinar
 - vi. Scott suggested that we share the webinar with the MA DEP grant program to demonstrate how we amplified their message and for possible further leverage of future grant opportunities. And earn some street cred.
- c. *Communications sub-committee update*
- i. Charlotte and Priya participated in the BE sustainability challenge - fun challenge
 - ii. Kristen posted some of our tasks on our FB page
 - iii. Kristen's idea was to implement something like this in Arlington - Charlotte thinks we could do this but it would take some time to implement - we could do it with other organizations - could be a way to get people psyched about the trash contract. It would require some planning.
- d. *Plastics sub-committee*
- i. Meghan gave an update on the April 6th virtual Plastics Subcommittee meeting - discussion at the meeting was focused on what we could do beyond NPP
 - ii. Some good ideas came out of the meeting - write to The Advocate; get the school Green Teams involved; timely articles; highlighting legislation - Break Free from Plastics (Federal legislation); one page guide on lowering plastics use (we can use the NPP promo material); wiki on low plastic lifestyle
 - iii. FB posts - some tips on low plastic ideas
 - iv. Reusable party ware at the Robbins Library of Things
 - v. Emily talked about how the ideas fell into 3 buckets - education piece; advocacy piece; working with other groups (partners) - she is putting together a framework for tasks.
 - vi. Charlotte suggested hashtag for #ZWA
- e. *Recycling Coordinator update*
- i. Charlotte is part of a group discussing nips - it's more litter not recyclable, just trash.
 - ii. Trash-Free Mystic - during Eco Week there's an opportunity to be part of stakeholder meeting - we should be part of this
 - iii. Cecily wrote a grant and MAPC - with Rachel involving green teams and \$17k was awarded

- iv. Larry asked if we can get a baseline tonnage on the plastics in our blue bins - Scott also interested and can work with Charlotte to figure it out. Charlotte indicated it will be difficult because so many things placed in blue bins should be in trash

- f. *Budget*

- i. If Meghan wants to use the budget for Library of Things she could propose it but Kathryn gave an update on Library of Things - they have their own budget and space is an issue
- ii. Larry will run the idea by Foodlink for storage of "party ware" - to loan out
- iii. Larry suggested spending some budget on the No Plastics Please promo materials - banner, placards, window stickers, etc.

- g. *Eco Week*

- i. Charlotte gave an update on all the events and what we could be involved in and get our name on some of those events.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm